

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05

DHA-02 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 ACDA-05 ORM-02

IO-10 A-01 OPR-02 SCA-01 EB-07 OC-05 CCO-00 FS-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /106 W  
----- 099569

O R 191426Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7437

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR MOPS ET SO

SUBJ: SOMALI INCURSIONS INTO OGADEN REPORTED

1. DIRECTOR TERRENCE KIRCH OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS), ON BASIS OF FRESH FIELD RADIO REPORTS FROM LATTER'S BASE CAMPS AT EL KERE (0550N-4205E) AND BERREI (0438E-4245N) THIS MORNING CONTACTED EMBASSY APPROXIMATELY 1030 HRS LOCAL (DEC 19), AND STATED AS FOLLOWS:

A) A SIZABLE NUMBER OF "SOMALIS" IS REPORTED TO BE CROSSING INTO THE EGHIOPIAN OGADEN. THESE SOMALIS ARE SPLITTING INTO GROUPS HEADING RESPECTIVELY TOWARDS BALE  
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AND SIDAMO PROVINCES FROM BORDER CROSSING AREA NEAR BARREI.

B) ACCORDING CRS' (SWEDISH) ADMINISTRATOR IN EL KERE THERE IS NOW AN ELEMENT ESTIMATED AT 300 "UNIFORMED, ARMED SOMALI SOLDIERS" ON IMI ROAD, 10 KMS NORTHEAST OF (PHONETIC) SHIKISA (0543N-4150E). SHIKISA, IN TURN, IS APPROXIMATELY 65 KMS FROM EL KERE. "SOMALI MILITARY" ARE REPORTED TO BE HEADING SOUTH TOWARDS SHIKISA AND EL KERE AT THIS TIME.

C) CRS DIRECTOR INFORMS THAT DECISION THEREFORE TAKEN TO EVACUATE EL KERE. SOME 30 ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS ONE SWEDISH ADMINISTRATOR AND THREE NURSES (1 ENGLISH), 2 NORWEGIAN) WORKING FOR JOINT CRS/UNICEF/SAVE THE CHILDREN PROJECT POTENTIALLY INVOLVED. APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF THESE ARE IN EL KERE AND THE REST (STANDING FAST) AT BARREI.

D) CRS DIRECTOR INITIALLY REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN PROCURING AIRCRAFT TO LIFT OUT NURSES FROM EL KERE AS WELL AS ONE SERIOUSLY ILL ETHIOPIAN MALE FROM BARREI.

2. EMBASSY PROMPTLY INFORMED BRITISH AND SWEDISH EMBASSIES HERE, AND APPROACHED MOFA AND MOD. MOFA AND MOD ADVISED OF ABOVE INFO AND CRS REQUEST FOR EVACUATION AIRCRAFT ALSO PASSED MOD (AYALEW MANDEFRO) AS EPMG HAS OF COURSE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY OF ALL FOREIGNERS IN COUNTRY.

3. FOLLOWING CRS/MOD CONFERENCE WHICH LEFT KIRCH WITH STRONG IMPRESSION MOD UNLIKELY ACT PROMPTLY ON REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT, DECISION TAKEN BY CRS TO DIRECT STAFFERS AT EL KERE TO BEGIN OVERLAND EVACUATION BY TRUCK AND LAND-ROVER FORTHWITH. DISPOSITION OF PATIENT IN BARREI SUBJECT TO MEDICAL OPINION TO BE OBTAINED. EL KERE EVACUATION NOW IN COURSE; CONVOY OF TWO TRUCKS AND LANDROVERS ONE OF WHICH IS RADIO-EQUIPPED LEFT EL KERE AT 1430 HRS LOCAL FOR LOCALITY NAMED GORO (EAST OF GOBA, IN BALE). CONVOY EXPECTED REACH GORO AT MIDNIGHT. CRS LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF HELICOPTER EVACUATION FROM CONVOY OF NURSES  
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BUT FEASIBILITY THIS OPTION STILL UNCLEAR.

4. ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE THAT INTRUDERS IDENTIFIED AS "ARMED AND UNIFORMED SOMALI" SOLDIERS THUS FARE ONLY RPT ONLY IN REPORT DESCRIBED PARA 1B ABOVE. CHARACTERIZATION OF OTHER SOMALI GROUPS ALLEGEDLY MOVING INTO ETHIOPIA STILL CONTRADICTORY OR VAGUE.

5. WE HAVE REASON BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT INCURSIONS  
OF ARMED "SOMALIS" ARE ALSO OCCURRING AT OTHER POINTS ALONG  
THE BORDER. THRUST OF THESE REPORTS SUGGEST ANOTHER AXIS  
OF INFILTRATION UP WALE SHEBELLE RIVER VALLEY. WE ARE  
ALSO HEARING OF ISOLATED ROAD MINING INCIDENTS AND AMBUSHES  
WELL WITHIN OGADEN. GIVEN STILL FRAGMENTARY AND OFTEN  
CONTRADICTORY NATURE OF OUR INFO, CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS BASED THEREON REMAIN PREMATURE.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, EVACUATIONS, MILITARY EXERCISES, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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